
CURRICULUM VITAE

ASANKA GUNASEKERA

Barrister

Francis Burt Chambers

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INTRODUCTION:

- Admitted as a Lawyer in 2009.
- Sole Practitioner between 14 May 2009 – 3 March 2015.
- Called to the Bar (Francis Burt Chambers) on 3 March 2015.
- 2015 and 2016 a sessional lecturer in *Occupational Health and Safety (Industrial Relations) 383* at Curtin University WA.
- From 2016 - 2021 Chairperson of the WA AIDS Council (Inc).
- From 2015 – 2019 Secretary of the WA Bar Association (Inc).

EDUCATION:

Murdoch University - Western Australia

Completed a ten (10) year “Managing Clerkship” pursuant to section 16 of the *Legal Practitioners' Act (WA) 1893*.

This Clerkship enables admission into the profession following completion of 11 law units and ten (10) years legal work.

- Registered as a Managing Clerk on 9 December 2002.
- Admitted as a Lawyer on 2 April 2009.
- Issued an Unrestricted Practising Certificate on 14 May 2009.

Business Associations Law	High Distinction
Contract	Credit
Criminal Law and Procedure	Credit
Constitutional Law	Distinction
Administrative Law	Credit
Property	Pass
Equity and Trusts	Distinction
Evidence	Distinction
Civil Procedure	Distinction
Torts	Credit

EXTRACT OF RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

March 2015 to present	Barrister Francis Burt Chambers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for and argue matters at various Courts and Tribunals.• Draft Opinions.• Draft advice on evidence.• Draft and/or settle pleadings.• Adversarial negotiations at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals.• Devise, consider and execute litigation management strategies.	

May 2009 to March 2015	Principal Personal Injury Law Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for and argue complex workers' compensation disputes before WorkCover (WA) on behalf of varying stakeholders.• Prepare for and argue workers' compensation appeals before the District Court of WA.• Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals.• Devise, consider and execute file management strategies for disputed claims in District and Supreme Courts including the Court of Appeal.• Maintain and analyse statutory outcomes.• Consider proposals for legislative amendment.• Preparing Submissions on legislative proposals for stakeholder dialogue.• Drafting opinions and letters of advice.• Manage relationships with key WorkCover stakeholders including, workers, employers, insurers, brokers, solicitors, and Arbitrators.	

July 2005 to May 2009	Principal Workers' Compensation Advocacy Services
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prepare for and argue complex workers' compensation disputes before WorkCover (WA) on behalf of varying stakeholders.• Prepare for and argue workers' compensation appeals before the Commissioner.• Adversarial and non-adversarial negotiation at conferences including Conciliation, Pre-Trial and Mediation in various Courts and Tribunals.	

ARTICLES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 – Presentation: “*Light in the Darkness: Ethical Duties in the face of Judicial Bullying*”, for the Slater & Gordon Professional Development Conference on Tuesday 17 March 2023 at 9.30am.
- 2022 – Article: “*A Fair Trial Does Not Mean a Perfect Trial: Staying Proceedings in Historical Child Sexual Abuse Cases*”, Brief Magazine, Law Society of Western Australia, 10 February 2022.
- 2019 – Speech: “*Every Journey Counts – 30 Years of the WA AIDS Council*” delivered at World AIDS Day ceremonies at Government House on 1 December 2019.
- 2018 – Presentation: “*Disruptors in Diversity – The Enemy Within?*” delivered at Law Summer School (Diversity and Inclusion in Legal Practice concurrent session on 23 February 2018.
- 2018 – Presentation: “*Civil Liability Legislation (Child Sexual Abuse Actions) Bill 2017 (WA)*” for the “*Civil Claims Against Institutional Abuse: The Tipping Point*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 21 June 2018.
- 2017 – Presentation: “*Personal Injury Damages – Back to Basics*” to the Australian Insurance Lawyers Alliance CPD breakfast Seminar.
- 2015 – Presentation: “*Ethics & Mediation – A Tangled Web?*” to the Law Society of Western Australia’s Personal Injury Law Update CPD Seminar.
- 2015 - Panel Speaker: “*Homophobia within the Law – Law Week Panel Discussion*” for the Law Society of Western Australia (Young Lawyers Committee) at the Supreme Court of Western Australia on 18 May 2015 at 6pm.
- 2015 – Presentation: “*Section 60 and 61 Applications*” for the “*2nd Annual Personal Injury Conference*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 5 March 2015.
- 2014 – Presentation: “*Stress Claims and the Path to Arbitration*” for the “*Psychological and Psychiatric Injury*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 12 June 2014.
- 2013 – Drafting: “*Policy for Managing Challenging Interactions*” for the WA AIDS Council (Inc).
- 2013 – Presentation: “*Workers’ Compensation Appeals*” for the “*Workers’ Compensation Developments*” Legalwise CPD Seminar on 21 November 2013.
- 2013 - Panel Speaker “*Pro Bono: Why, Where and How*” CPD Seminar for the Law Society of WA on 20 June 2013 at 5.00pm.

- 2013 - Drafted - “*Policy for Access to Retreats for People Living with a Disability*” for the WA AIDS Council (Inc)
- 2012 - Presentation “*Mental Health and the Workplace – A Legal Guide for Managers*” on Wednesday 6 June 2012 at the State Library Theatre.
- 2011 - Drafted the “*WorkCover Registered Agents and Legal Work Guidelines*” and “*Explanatory Notes*” dated 30 March 2011 for the Legal Practice Board (WA) Inc.
- 2007 - Drafted “*Submission to the Legal Costs Committee made pursuant to Section 272(1)(a) of the Workers’ Compensation & Injury Management Act (WA) 1981*” 31 July 2007.
- 2004 - Article: “*Managing Workplace Stress*”: <http://www.humanresourcesmagazine.com.au/articles>
- 2004 - Presentation “*Stop Stressing - Understanding the Psychological and Legal Issues for Employers in Managing Workplace Stress*” public seminar delivered Thursday 4 March 2004 at the Jackson McDonald boardroom at Level 4, 81 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA.

GOVERNANCE & VOLUNTEER WORK

WA AIDS Council (“WAAC”)

See <https://waaids.com/The-WA-AIDS-Council-Board>

Board Level

- 2016 – 2021 Chairperson
- 2015 – 2016 Vice Chairperson
- 2014 – 2015 Secretary
- 2012 – 2014 Community Representative

Committee Level

- 2019 – 2020 Member “*Mandatory Testing Legislation*” Repeal Sub-Committee.
- 2016 – 2021 Chair of Governance Sub-Committee.
- 2017 & 2020 Chair of CEO Recruitment Sub-Committee.
- 2017 – 2019 Chair of Constitutional Reform Sub-Committee
- 2014 – 2016 Co-Chair HIV+ Community Liaison Sub-Committee.

WA Bar Association (Inc)

Board Level

- 2015 – 2019 Board Member
- 2015 – 2019 Secretary of Bar Council

Committee Level

- 2015 – 2019 Member *Diversity Subcommittee*
- 2015 – 2019 Member *Professional Standards Subcommittee*

Law Society of WA

- 2009 – present, Judge, Law Society of WA Inter School Mock Trial Competition.
 - Judged over 40 trials.
 - Wrote and settled Mock Trial cases.
- 2009 – present, Law Society of WA Access to Justice pro bono referral service.
- 2012 – Judge, Murdoch Student Law Society Mooting Competition.
- 2013 – Law Society of WA + Edith Cowan University Graduate Mentoring Programme.
- 2014 – present Member Personal Injury and Workers' Compensation Subcommittee.

Australian Lawyers for Human Rights

- 2013 – Assisting solicitor in *amicus* brief for *State of WA v. Brown & Anor* (P49 of 2013 – High Court of Australia).
- 2019 - Appeared *amicus curiae* for NAPWHA in *Palmer v. State of WA* [2018] WASCA 225

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